

**MINUTES OF THE  
NATURAL RESOURCES APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE  
Tuesday, January 11, 2011  
Room 25 House Building, State Capitol Complex**

MEMBERS PRESENT:      Sen. David Hinkins, Chair  
                                 Rep. John Mathis, Chair  
                                 Sen. Gene Davis  
                                 Sen. Margaret Dayton  
                                 Sen. Ralph Okerlund  
                                 Sen. Dennis Stowell  
                                 Sen. Kevin Van Tassell  
                                 Rep. Roger Barrus  
                                 Rep. Susan Duckworth  
                                 Rep. Brad Galvez  
                                 Rep. Mike Noel  
                                 Rep. Lee Perry  
                                 Rep. Christine Watkins

MEMBERS ABSENT:      Rep. Keith Grover  
                                 Rep. Dixon Pitcher  
                                 Rep. Stephen Sandstrom

STAFF:                      Ivan Djambov, Fiscal Analyst  
                                 Mark Bleazard, Fiscal Analyst  
                                 Linda Service, Committee Secretary

**Note:**    A list of visitors and a copy of handouts are filed with the committee minutes.

Rep. Mathis called the meeting to order at 2:20 p.m. He welcomed and introduced the committee members

**BUDGET PROCESS OVERVIEW**

Mark Bleazard, Fiscal Analyst, reviewed "Budgeting for FY 2012 and Beyond", which is a handout detailing revenue, expenditure, challenges, current commitments, education, funding pressure, and the time line mandated by the Executive Appropriations Committee (EAC).

**SUBCOMMITTEE OVERVIEW**

Ivan Djambov, Fiscal Analyst, discussed "Funding Mix, FY 2011" which is a brief overview of how the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality Appropriations Subcommittee as a whole is constituted as far as departments and funding and how that has changed in the last three years.

## **AGENCY REVIEWS:**

### **A. Natural Resources**

Michael Styler, Executive Director, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), distributed a handout which summarizes the services, customers, budget impacts, and issues and challenges of the Department, including a plan of action. He also cited ways the Department improves the quality of life in Utah. The primary mission of administration is to ensure the coordination and cooperation of the divisions and to provide quality support. Director Styler presented a video prepared by Cindy Pearson, Wasatch High School. He then introduced the staff and answered questions from members of the committee.

#### **1. Utah Geological Survey**

Rick Allis, Director, Utah Geological Survey (UGS), reviewed the mission, primary services, customer needs, accomplishments and budget reduction impacts of USG. He responded to questions from committee members.

#### **2. Division of Wildlife Resources**

Jim Karpowits, Director, Division of Wildlife Resources, detailed the mission of the Division which is to serve the people of Utah as trustee and guardian of the state's wildlife. The core concept is that wildlife is valuable to all of the people of Utah. He touched upon their primary customers, the economic value of wildlife in Utah, the organizational structure, accomplishments in FY 2010, budget reduction impacts, major policy issues and challenges, and a plan of action. He further answered questions from members of the committee.

#### **3. Division of State Parks and Recreation**

Mary Tullius, Director, Division of State Parks and Recreation, summarized the mission, primary services, goals and performance measures, budget cuts and efficiencies, major accomplishments, issues and challenges, and funding sources of the Division. Director Tullius replied to questions.

#### **4. Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands**

Dick Buhler, Director, Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands, informed committee members of the agency mission and services provided. He elaborated on primary customers, recent budget reduction impacts, major successes/accomplishments last year, and major issues and challenges for the future.

#### **5. Division of Water Resources**

Dennis Strong, Director, Division of Water Resources, commented on the mission of the Division which is to plan, conserve, develop and protect Utah's water resources. He touched on

primary services provided, customers, budget reduction and proposed budget reduction impacts, along with issues and challenges of the agency. In addition, he explained the Division's performance measures. The Director provided clarification to committee concerns.

## **6. Division of Water Rights**

Kent Jones, Director and State Engineer, Utah Division of Water Rights, reviewed a handout detailing the Division of Water Rights. The mission of the Division is to provide order and certainty in the beneficial use of Utah's water. Water Rights puts water within reach of people. Director Jones summarized services, customers, budget impacts and issues and challenges of the Division and responded to committee members' questions.

## **7. Division of Oil, Gas and Mining**

John Baza, Director, Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, elaborated on the purpose of the Division which is to facilitate resource conservation and economic development of Utah's energy and non-energy mineral resources. The Division addresses public safety by alleviating the hazards associated with abandoned mining operations, and by ensuring that present-day activities are conducted responsibly. He touched on objectives and how they are accomplished, and issues and challenges for the future.

### **B. Public Lands Office**

John Harja, Director, Public Lands Policy Coordination Office, Office of the Governor, commented on a handout which detailed the mission of the Office as protecting the interests of Utah and its citizens by providing an aggressive presence in the decisions regarding public land use in Utah. The Office works to preserve access to public lands, provide a single voice representing the interest of Utah in discussions with federal land management agencies, and protect archaeological resources.

### **C. Agriculture and Food**

Leonard Blackham, Commissioner, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, introduced the division directors in attendance and spoke on behalf of the Division of Administrative Services and the other seven divisions within the Department. The mission of the Department of Agriculture and Food is to promote the healthy growth of Utah agriculture, conserve natural resources and protect the food supply. Commissioner Blackham summarized the success the Department has attained with respect to the Japanese beetle infestation, ARDL loans which have increased alfalfa production while cutting water consumption, reduction of human and animal salmonella cases, and the GIP program which has improved land health of 1.5 million acres of Utah rangeland.

### **D. School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration**

Kevin Carter, Director, School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA), reviewed the programs which are administered by SITLA, such as: land sales, easements, grazing and other surface leasing, oil and gas leases, mining of coal and other minerals, and real estate development. He stated that the Administration is completely self-funded with the budget being approved by SITLA's Board of Trustees in an open public meeting. Director Carter elaborated on

the issues and challenges facing SITLA and offered to answer any questions from the committee.

## **E. Department of Environmental Quality**

Amanda Smith, Executive Director, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), touched upon their mission to safeguard public health and quality of life by protecting and improving the environment while considering the benefits to public health, the impacts on economic development, property, wildlife, tourism, business, agriculture, forests, and other interests, and the costs to the public and industry. Director Smith summarized a handout presented to the committee outlining services provided, budget trends, challenges, and action plan. She responded to questions from committee members.

### **1. Division of Radiation Control**

Rusty Lundberg, Director of the Division of Radiation Control (DRC), presented an overview of the Division. The mission of the DRC is to protect the citizens of Utah and the environment from sources of radiation that constitute a significant health hazard. He highlighted the services provided, performance measures, budget and FTE trends, challenges, and action plan.

### **2. Division of Water Quality**

John Whitehead, Assistant Director, Division of Water Quality (DWQ), commented on the DWQ handout outlining statutory authority, services provided, performance measures, budget and FTE trends, challenges, and action plan. Their mission is to protect public health and the beneficial uses of water by maintaining and enhancing the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of Utah's waters.

### **3. Division of Drinking Water**

Ken Bousfield, Director, Division of Drinking Water (DDW), stated the Division's mission is to ensure a safe and reliable supply of drinking water to Utah's residents and the traveling public. Under the authority of the Utah Safe Drinking Water Act, DDW develops programs to promote and protect drinking water. He responded to questions from the committee.

### **4. Division of Environmental Response and Remediation**

Brent Everett, Director, Division of Environmental Response and Remediation (DERR), explained that the mission of the Division is to protect public health and Utah's environment by cleaning up contaminated sites, ensuring underground storage tanks are managed and used properly, and providing chemical usage and emission data to the public and local response agencies. He noted that the two branches administered under the direction of the Division are the Underground Storage Tank Program and the Superfund Program.

### **5. Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste**

Brad Maulding, Manager of the Hazardous Waste Facility within the Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste (DSHW), reviewed the Division's mission of protecting human health and the environment by ensuring proper management of solid and hazardous wastes within the state

of Utah. He mentioned performance measures, budget and FTE trends, challenges, and plan of action.

## **6. Division of Air Quality**

Cheryl Heying, Director, Division of Air Quality (DAQ), stated the mission of the Division is to safeguard human health and quality of life by protecting and enhancing air quality throughout the state of Utah. She stressed the importance of working with the sources of pollution to ensure all standards are being achieved. She briefly touched on services provided, performance measures, budget and FTE trends, challenges, and action plan. Director Heying responded to questions raised by committee members.

**MOTION:** Sen. Van Tassell moved to adjourn at 5:55 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

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Sen. David Hinkins, Chair

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Rep. John Mathis, Chair